



#5/Election  
(2 EDT)  
L. Ellis  
04-01-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF : John E. Armstrong, *et al.*  
FOR : METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR THE  
INTEROPERABILITY AND MANIPULATION  
OF DATA IN A COMPUTER NETWORK  
SERIAL NO. : 09/836,894  
FILED : April 17, 2001  
EXAMINER : Firmin Backer  
ART UNIT : 3621  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : 75637/11931

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MAR 26 2004  
GROUP 3600

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner of Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated December 23, 2003, the Examiner has required the restriction of the present application to one of the following inventions:

GROUP I: claims 1-5, drawn to processing data in a transaction,  
classified in class 705, subclass 64;